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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Philippines

DATE DISTR. 17 AUG 49

SUBJECT Probable Alliance between Chinese Tong and the Chinese Communists
25X1C

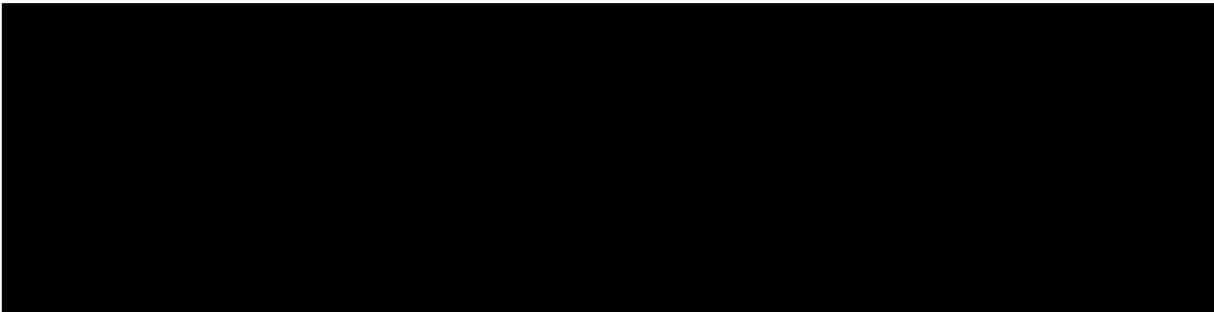
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NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO. 25X1X

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



1. Several Chinese who were suspected of Communist leanings were taken for questioning by police intelligence officers in Manila on 12 July, 1949. The arrests were precipitated by persistent rumors of an alleged plot to assassinate Generalissimo CHIANG Kai-shek. Among those arrested were Vicente CO, a son of CO Pak (known as KORPAC in the Chinese community), and a nephew of CO Pak. Those arrested were released after denying knowledge of the alleged plot.

2. CO Pak or KORPAK * is also known as Felix del Rosario. He is the millionaire head of Vilco Trading, General Importers and Exporters, located at 396 M. de Binonda, in Manila. He is suspected of being engaged in many clandestine activities including gun running and the smuggling of aliens into the Philippines. CO Pak is also head of a tong which has been instrumental in the murder of Chinese and others as far back as 1947.** No legal evidence, however, has been unearthed that can be used to bring charges against him.

3. Vicente CO helps run the business of the Vilco Trading for his father.

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* **Comment.** in listing pro-Communist Chinese organizations in the Philippines, mentions KORPAC as an important gambler and collaborator who supported financially an organization, which, because of his support, had an unfavorable reputation.

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** **Comment.** It is believed that CO Pak is the head of the Chinese tong which is mentioned in the following quotation from the Manila Daily Mirror of 9 July, 1949:

" SLEUTHS NAB TONG LEADER The existence of a powerful Chinese tong operating 'right under the nose' of the Manila police was definitely established by crack NBI operatives after extensive sleuthing. The suspected ring-leader of the organization was arrested yesterday. Government agents describe the 'tong' as a veritable 'Murder Inc.' Numerous written complaints received from prominent members of the Chinese community, many of whom directed their letters to former

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Secretary of Justice Sabino Padillo attest to this fact. The latter, upon his appointment to the bench, personally endorsed the communications to Secretary Ricardo Neponuceno.

The investigators disclosed that the operations of the tong members which number approximately 10,000 Chinese, range from extortion to murder. The 'hatchet men' of the association are also accused by the relatives of some of the rings victims to have employed 'sadistic' methods, reminiscent of the 'brutal modes of torture' practiced in their country.

It was further learned that the gang members 'for appearance sake' have organized themselves into four musical associations. However, during the investigation, NBI agents found that most of them do not know how to play any musical instrument.

According to one of the suspects who has indicated his willingness to turn state witness, the gang was responsible for some of the kidnappings committed lately in Chinatown. He was reported to have also confessed to some of the tong members being implicated in the spread of Communist propaganda and the rampant smuggling of aliens into the country.

One of the 'explosive' discoveries of government agents was the cache of documentary evidence found in the residence of one of the suspects. According to the NBI men, they now have in their possession enough 'corpus delicti' to link the activities of the tong men with that of the Huks. Books of accounts, leaflets and sundry literature, the contents of which were translated with the assistance of a police interpreter revealed the connection of the tong members with the subversive activities of undesirable elements."

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